Minutes of the Mississippi Baptist Association

1819 - 1925

Pub. No. 225

MINUTES

OF THE

Mississippi Baptist Association,

CONVENED AT

MEPZIBAH CHURCH,

PARISH OF FELECIANA,

STATE OF LOUISIANA,

ON THE SIXTEENTH OCTOBER, 1819.

NATCHEZ:

PRINTED BY ANDREW MARSCHALK.

1820.

Those who were absent, are marked thus (†)—Ordained Ministers in Capitals—Licenced Preachers in Italic—and Churches not Represented with an (*).

		Baptised,	Restored,	Received by letter,	Dismissed,	Excommunicated,	Deceased,	Total in Fellowship,	Contributed for Minutes.	Association Fund.
Salem,*										
New-Hope,	JOSEPH SLOCUM,†	1	6		2	2	2	60	1 50	2
	David Thompson,†			2	1			35	1	
Bethel,	WM. H. ERWIN,									
	Joel Glass,	6		3	10	1		31	1	1
Ebenezer,	Jesse Talbot,									
	Fitz M. Hunt,		1					32	2 75	3 50
New Providence,	SAMUEL MARSH,									
	John Thompson,†	1		8	4	2	1	57	2	3 25
Morgan's Fork,*										
Bayou Pierre,	JOSIAH FLOWER,									
	Reuben White,	2		7	7		1	39	4 75	4 25
Sarepta,	Thomas Havis,									
	Joel Selman,				3	1		40	1 50	1 50
East Fork,	CHARLES FELLER,									
	John Wilson,	1		2			2	22	1	2
Zion Hill,	*Asa Mercer*,									
	Charles Rhodes,	5	8	6		2		32	2 50	5
Shiloh,	DAVID COOPER,									
	Thomas Casen,				5			32	1 50	3
Tanchapiho,*										
Half-Moon Bluff,	NATHAN MORRIS,									
	JACOB BANKSTON,			3		1		30	1	2
Jerusalem,	HOWEL WALL,									
Clear Creek,*				2			1	14		
Percy's Creek,	James Crow,									
	Curtis Emery,	1	2					21	1	1
Boguechitto,	Hance Hamilton,									
	David Cleavland,	1		2	16	1		39	2	7 50
Mount Nebo,	*William Bell*,			1		2		22	1	
Penuel,*										
African,	Willis Breazeale,†									
	Elisha Flower,	1	1	1		1		78	1 50	50
Hepzibah,	EZRA COURTNEY,									
	David Phelps,			3	4	1		79	1 12	2
Hopewell,*									1	
Antioch,	David Sumrall,†									
	James Perkins,	1		9	1	1		38	1	6
Pearl River,	GEO. W. KING,									
	Harman Runnels,†	2		3	3		1	24	2	3
Union,*										
Mars' Hill,	Christopher Garlington,									
	David Edwards,†	1		2				13	25	1
Fair River,	James Bailey,									
	Shadrack King,†	5		7	2	2		81	4 62	4
Silver Creek,	Willis Simmons,†									
	Nathan Parker,	1		1	1	2		22	1 50	1 50
Fellowship,	Thomas Hill,†									
	William Curtis,			4	2		1	19	1	1

Those who were absent, are marked thus (†)—Ordained Ministers in Capitals—Licenced Preachers in Italic—and Churches not Represented with an (*).

		Baptised,	Restored,	Received by letter,	Dismissed,	Excommunicated,	Deceased,	Total in Fellowship,	Contributed for Minutes.		Association Fund.	
New Chapel,	ABSALOM HARPER†											
	Daniel Taylor,†			4		1		29	2		2	
Poplar Spring,	JOHN P. MARTIN,											
	James Warner,	1		20	1			36	2		1	
Natchez,	William Snodgrass,				1			9	1		1	
Pinckneyville,*												
Sharon,	ELLIOTT ESTES,											
	Bartlett Collins,	15		1	5			36	1	50	2	50
Dilling's Creek,	Elias Phillips,											
	John Barnes,	3		4	2			28	2			
Baileychitto,	WILLIAM COOK,†											
	Henry Bond,			3		1		13	1	25	1	
Silver Creek, east	David Hubert,											
of Pearl river,	William Brown,†	1	1	8	12	1		28	2		2	
Bulah,	DAVID COOK,†											
	Thomas Mathews,†			4				14		50	1	25
Friendship,	Nehemiah Williams,†	3		6				13	1		1	
New-Orleans,*												
St. Francisville,	J. A. RANALDSON,											
	Elisha Andrews,						1	6	1		1	

Total 1062

RECAPITULATION.

Baptised,	54
Restored,	19
Received by letter,	113
Dismissed,	88
Excommunicated,	23
Deceased,	10
Total in Fellowship,	1125
Contributed to pay for Minutes,	$53 25
Association Fund,	67 25

CONTRIBUTED FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Antioch Church,	$21 75
Hepzibah do.	1 50

MINUTES, &c.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1819.

Brother George W. King, according to appointment, preached the Introductory Sermon, from second Peter, 1st chap. 5th, 6th, 7th verses—"And beside this, giving all deligence, add to your Faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity."

Brother David Cooper prayed.

Letters from churches were read, and the names of delegates enrolled.

Brother David Cooper was chosen Moderator, and brother William Snodgrass, Clerk.

The Rules of decorum for the government of the association were read.

Ministering Brethren were invited to take seats, and assist in the transaction of business.

A Petition from St. Francisville Church, was received and read, praying admission into the association; which was granted, and the names of their delegates enrolled.

A Petition from an African Church, praying for admission into the association, was read and considered; and, their having no delegates present, nor any satisfactory account of their faith made known, their petition was referred to the next association.

The members of Hepzibah Church, appointed to preach on the Lord's Day, brethren Charles Felder, David Cooper and Samuel Marsh.

Adjourned to Monday, 18th inst.

On the Lord's Day, the Ministers appointed, preached to a large and attentive congregation; brother George W. King closed the meeting with exhortation and prayer.

MONDAY, *18th October.*

Met according to adjournment—

Brother Moderator prayed.

The Circular Letter, which was expected to have been prepared, as directed by the last association, not having come to hand; brethren David Cooper, James A. Ranaldson, and William Snodgrass, were appointed to prepare a circular letter for the present association.

The Petition of eight churches, north of the Homochitto river, praying for a division of the association, and dismission, to form an association of all the churches that may choose to join with them, north of said river, was read and considered, and on the vote being taken, it was carried unanimously in favor of the prayer of the petitioners; and recommended, that the first association of said churches be held at Bayou Pierre Church, to commence on Saturday before the third Lord's Day in September next.

The Petition of several churches east of Pearl river, was read and considered, and on the vote being taken, it was determined that the

churches in the eastern section of this association, including Pearl river and the adjacent country, desirous of obtaining a separate association, be recommended to call a convention, to be held at Dilling's Creek Church, on Friday before the first Lord's Day in April next, for the purpose of coming to an agreement as it respects the propriety of forwarding a petition for a division, to our next association.

The committee appointed to visit New Hope Church, and examine into the difficulties that existed, as represented at our last association; reported, that they had performed that duty, and that they found the church in order, and that in excluding Mr. Tucker and others, the church did what she had a right to do—which report was approved.

The churches are requested to beware of William White, who calls himself a Baptist Preacher—his character is published in the Minutes of a Baptist Association in Baltimore.

Departed this life, since our last annual meeting, our beloved and venerable Elder, THOMAS MERCER. The Association offer this as a testimony of their affectionate remembrance of him, whilst they regret their loss, in the death of one who was zealous and indefatigable in his ministerial labors, useful, and much beloved.

The churches are recommended to raise a fund, to be placed in the hands of their clerk or treasurer, for the use of the Church, and for the aid of travelling Preachers.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a letter of correspondence be sent to the new association west of the Mississippi, in the state of Louisiana; and that brethren David Cooper and Ezra Courtney, be our messengers, to visit said association at their next meeting, to be held at the church called Calvary, on the Saturday before the first Lord's day in November next; and that each of our messengers above named shall receive out of our association fund, fifteen dollars, for travelling expences.

The next association is appointed to be held at Zion Hill church, to commence on the Saturday before the third Lord's day in Oct. next.

Brother James A. Ranaldson is oppointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next association, to commence at 12 o'clock; and in case of failure, brother David Cooper.

Ordered, That the places where, and times when, the church meetings are held, be stated in our minutes.

Brother Elisha Andrews, is appointed to prepare the circular letter for our next association; and the subject on which he is requested to write, is the duty of parents in the education of their children.

Brother William Snodgrass was appointed to superintend the printing of the Minutes.

DAVID COOPER, *Moderator*.
WILLIAM SNODGRASS, *Clerk*.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the Churches they represent, send Christian salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

THE Brother having failed to produce the Circular according to appointment, we deemed it expedient, to fill its place by inviting your attention to the following address:

IN the order of Divine Providence from the early ages of the world to the present time, God has given to some the pre-eminence over others in common, or ordinary relations of human life. It is the duty of some to command, and of others to obey. Those who have the authority over others, are called, in the language of scripture, Lord, or Master. We read that Abraham and Solomon had many servants.—Men servants, and maid servants; servants born in their houses, and bought with money. It is highly probable that in the Apostolic age of the church, that servants were more common than in the days of Abraham and Solomon. Much salutary advice has been given by the Apostles, both to servants and masters; and their respective duties plainly described, or pointed out; which is worthy of the candid consideration of all such as hold servants, or are servants themselves.

In this address, we deem it expedient, to give a few words of advice to those who hold servants.

1. The scriptures admonish you to be just in your treatment, and reasonable in your demands, by directing such work to be executed or done by each individual servant, as is most suitable to his strength and capacity. "Masters give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye, also, have a master in heaven."—Col. iv. i. Wisdom and prudence on this point, are necessary, in as much as it requires that different treatment should be administered at different times with the same servant, according to his ability, or disability. To require of your servant that which is not within the limits of his power, would be cruel and unjust; and a violation of the word of God—"Thou shalt not rule over them with rigor."—Lev. 25, 43.

2. It is the duty of masters to be kind to their servants; "and to forbear threatening, knowing that ye also have a master in heaven." The situation in which they are placed, obliges them to forego many of the pleasures of life, and to submit to drudgeries and toil, which ought to excite sympathy and compassion, in the breasts of those who enjoy the fruits of their labour.

3. It is the duty of masters to study the welfare of their servants, as it regards the interest of their bodies; but more especially that of their souls. Masters, in this respect, are under great responsibility. Servants ought to be furnished with food and raiment suited to their situation. This is their portion under the sun, and the just reward of their labour; for this they have a claim on their master. And he who withholds it, does not give unto his servant that which is just and equal.—The master who has the keys of knowledge, should teach his servants the great principles of our Holy Religion. Like Abraham, he ought to command his household, that they may keep the ways of the Lord.—Gen. 18, 19. He ought to exercise his authority in restraining them from vice, and in training them up to virtue and happiness.

We think it important and necessary, to give some instruction to servants, as many of them are members of our churches; whose duty it is to obey their masters according to the flesh. Brethren, under the dispensations of God, you have been brought into a state of bondage. However dark, mysterious, and unpleasant, those dispensations may appear to you, we have no doubt but they are founded in wisdom and goodness. You must commit your cause to that God, who "governs the universe, and disposes of the fates of all nations." If you are called, being a servant, care not for it. Remember that you are not your own—you have been bought with a price; and that your master is entitled to your best services. In the discharge of your duty, it is necessary that you should be industrious, honest, faithful, submissive, and humble; and that you treat your master and all his lawful commands with much attention and respect. That you study to promote his interest and happiness, to the utmost of your ability. You must obey your earthly master with fear and trembling; whether they are perverse and wicked, or pious and gentle. This will add to your respectability and comfort, and like Joseph, you will secure the confidence of your master, and shew to all, that you are a much better servant, in consequence of your being religious. It will also have a tendency to influence the conduct of your fellow servants, and to make them more useful, respectable, and happy. But for your better information relative to your duty, we invite your serious attention to a few quotations from the New Testament, in which your duty is so clearly pointed out, that it cannot be misunderstood.

"Servants be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart as unto Christ, not with eye service as men pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will, doing service as to the Lord, and not to men. Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."—Eph. vi. 5, 6, 7. "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; not purloining; but, shewing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, in all things."—Titus ii. 9, 10. "Servants be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward."—1 Pet. ii. 18. "Let as many servants as are under the yoke, count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed."—1 Tim. vi. 1, 2. "And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren, but rather do them service."

We beseech you, brethren, in the name of Jesus, for the honor of God, and for the advancement of his blessed cause in the world—if you sustain the character of a master, that you govern with moderation, with gentleness, and with meekness of wisdom; always keep in view that you have a master in heaven, to whom you are accountable for your stewardship. Let not avarice, or a criminal thirst for riches, induce you to oppress your servant, lest his groans, his sweat, and his blood, ascend up to God as a witness against you.

Servants, we exhort you, in the name of the Lord, and for the honor of the gospel, that you be obedient—regard the interest, the honor, and happiness of your masters; and shew, by the gentleness of your man-

ness, and the uprightness of your lives, that the religion of Jesus, has a tendency to improve your standing and character in this world; as well as to exalt your hopes of the life to come. May every believing master, and professing servant, so live in this world, as to be able, when death shall come, to give up their accounts with joy and not with grief. And, at last, to hear that blessed plaudit, of well done thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

By order of the Association.

D. COOPER, *Mod.*

Places where, and times when the Churches hold their Meetings, viz:

Salem Church—Coles's creek, Jefferson co. 1st Sunday in every month.
New Hope—Well's creek, Franklin county,
Bethel—near Woodville, Wilkinson county, 2nd Sunday.
Ebenezer—Beaver creek, Amite county, 1st do.
New Providence—Waggoner's creek, Amite co. 4th Sunday.
Morgan's Fork—Franklin county,
Bayou Pierre—Claiborne do. 3d do.
Sarepta—Franklin do. 4th do.
East Fork—Amite do. 3d do.
Zion Hill— do. do. 1st do.
Shiloh—Thompson's creek, Wilkinson county, 3d Sunday.
Tanchapiho—Pike county,
Halfmoon Bluff—Green Parish 2d Sunday.
Jerusalem—Amite county, 3d do.
Clear creek—Adams do.
Percy's Creek—Percy's creek, Wilkinson county, 1st Sunday.
Boguechitto—Pike county, 1st do.
Mount Nebo—Green Parish, 1st do.
Penuel—St. Helena, 2d do.
African—Claiborne county, 2d do.
Hepzibah—Furlow's creek, Parish of Feliciana, (Lou.) 3d Sunday.
Hopewell—Franklin county, 2d Sunday.
Antioch—Marion do. 3d do.
Pearl River—Monticello, Lawrence county, 3d do.
Mars' Hill—Amite county, 2d do.
Fair River—Lawrence do. 4th do.
Silver creek—Pike do. 3d do.
Fellowship—Jefferson do. 2d do.
New Chapel—Pike do.
Popler Spring—Lawrence do. 4th do.
Natchez—Natchez, 4th do.
Pinkneyville—Wilkinson county, 2d do.
Sharon—Feliciana Parish, (near Mr. Turnbull's) 2d do.
Dilling's Creek—Marion county, 1st do.
Baileychitto—Pike county, 1st do.
Silver Creek, east of Pearl River—Lawrence co. 2d do.
Bulah— do. do. 3d do.
Friendship—Pike county, 3d do.
St. Francisville—St. Francisville, 1st do.